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cases with uncovered heads, can only produce disease in the hottest season of the year and during the reign of epidemic disease in a tropical town. Indeed, the authorities are well aware of this fact, and have tried to remove such a serious cause of deaths, but in vain; the populace will have the festa, and that is all.

Smallpox.—This disease is very slowly finishing, but it is unusual to have any but sporadic cases at this time of the year. The most ignorant classes avoid all sanitary rules as much as possible; hence the disease extends itself. Only a few days ago a Portuguese, who keeps a small and dirty restaurant for the laboring classes, nearly in front of my residence, was heavily fined and forced to remove and his house thoroughly disinfected because he had had a case of smallpox in a small, dark room adjoining his shop, hidden from the authorities, and from whom the contagion extended to others. I cite this fact as one of many.

The following-named ships have been inspected and received bills of health from this office since last report: February 25, American bark *Taira Topen*, for Barbados, West Indies; February 27, British steamship *Grecian Prince*, for New York from Santos; February 28, Portuguese bark *Inlius*, for Pensacola, Fla.; February 29, Belgian steamship *Hevelius*, for New York, and the American bark *Amy*, for Baltimore, Md.; March 2, American barkentine *White Wings*, for Barbados, West Indies.

Respectfully, yours,

R. CLEARY, M. D.,
Sanitary Inspector, U. S. M. H. S.

RIO DE JANEIRO, *March 10, 1896.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit the report for the week ended March 7, 1896:

There were 43 deaths from *accessio pernicioso*, a decrease of 7; 237 from yellow fever, an increase of 38; 4 from smallpox, a decrease of 3; 8 from beriberi, the same as in the foregoing week; 16 from enteric fever, an increase of 7; 58 from tuberculosis, the same as in the foregoing week, and 1 each from whooping cough and measles. From all causes there were 700 deaths, an increase of 57.

Smallpox.—This disease is gradually becoming less, and promises soon to be extinguished.

Yellow fever.—I believe we may consider this disease at its height, and may hope for a decrease soon. One case has appeared in St. Paulo, and several at various points in the interior. * * *

Since last report the following-named ship has been inspected and received bill of health from this office: March 7, steamship *Bielo*, British, for New York.

Respectfully, yours,

R. CLEARY, M. D.,
Sanitary Inspector, U. S. M. H. S.

JAPAN.

Report on bubonic plague.

YOKOHAMA, *March 24, 1896.*

SIR: I have the honor to forward the following information with regard to the plague at Hongkong, which, of course, you may have directly from that port, but which, as it is from sources of undoubted reliability and is confirmed by private communications, I think it well to send you, for the reasons which I have before given.

The reports received by the Japanese foreign office state that from January 5, the date of the outbreak, to March 16 there have been 234 cases, with a mortality of 204, and at the same time call attention to the malignancy of the disease, a remark scarcely requisite in view of the reported death rate.

At a meeting of the central board of health, held at Tokyo on the 19th instant, it was decided that the most rigid inspection shall be carried out in the case of all vessels coming from Hongkong, and that in case any infection is found or suspected, strict quarantine shall be enforced for not less than seven days, with disinfection of ship, crew, passengers, and cargo.

No cases of cholera have occurred in this Empire since the date of my last report, March 15.

I am, sir, very respectfully,

STUART ELDRIDGE, M. D.,
Sanitary Inspector, U. S. M. H. S.

TURKEY.

Concerning the general movement of the last pilgrimage in the Hedjaz.

[Report No. 149.]

CONSTANTINOPLE, March 26, 1896.

I have the honor to forward to the Department a copy, printed in French, of the general movement of the last pilgrimage, 1894-95, in the Hedjaz, or the Holy Land of the Islam. I think it necessary to accompany it by some details which I consider interesting.

By a telegram under date of the 23d of April, 1895, it was announced that a cholera death had occurred in Mecca, a pilgrim among those who arrived from Singapore on board the English steamship *Stentor*. According to the board's papers of the above-mentioned steamship *Stentor*, no illness on board had occurred during her voyage from Singapore to Jeddah, including the five days' quarantine at Camaran. The epidemic on which we lay stress was rather light, and though, as above-mentioned, on the 23d of April, the largest number of cholera deaths (27) occurred on the 30th of the same month. Cholera broke out among the pilgrims who composed the caravan, which from Mecca goes to Medina. This caravan was composed of 12,000 camels and 25,000 pilgrims, 4,000 of whom fell victims of the scourge. In the village of Rebuk alone, there occurred 500 deaths. Rebuk is a village four days' distant from Mecca.

In the beginning of the journey death immediately followed the attack, but, as is well known, traveling is the best way to get rid of cholera. When the above-mentioned caravan arrived at Medina, as well as when it came back to Mecca, cholera had already disappeared and the pilgrims were quite free of the scourge. There is no doubt that the sanitary improvements performed in the Hedjaz—of however little importance—have contributed to check the spread of the epidemic. Not a single case of cholera has been observed in Yeddah.

The number of pilgrims landed in the Holy Land at the last pilgrimage was 60,000, and 60,000 or 70,000 more have to be added who had reached the holy cities through the desert. If we compare the number of pilgrims who visit the Hedjaz every year we will see that this number becomes, every year, larger. This augmentation is due to the great